

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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R 291245Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4006

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOWC

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PASS BAQHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, FR, IR

SUBJECT: SHAH'S INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH CORRESPONDENT

SUMMARY: IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE REPORTER HIM, INSTATEMENT SIMILAR TO THOSE HE HAS MADE IN PAST, BELITTLED IRAQI MILITARY POTENTIAL AND CHARACTERIZED TERRORIST MOVEMENT IN IRAN AS FINISHED. AMIDST VARIOUS COMMENTS ABOUT IRAN'S RELATIONS WITH USSR AND INDIA, WAS SERIES OF INTERESTING REMARKS, PERHAPS REFLECTING INFLUENCE OF EMPRESS FARAH, INDICATING STRONG PERSIAN DESIRE TO EXPAND TIES WITH FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. LOCAL PRESS TODAY PUBLISHED PORTIONS OF IMPERIAL INTERVIEW WITH AFP CORRESPONDENT JEAN MAURIAC IN WHICH SHAH PROFESSED HIMSELF UNCONCERNED OVER USSR ARMS SALES TO IRAQ, NOTING THAT BAGHDAD WOULD BUY ARMS FROM SOMEWHERE IN ANY CASE. IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REHASH OF EARLIER STATEMENTS MONARCH DOWNGRADED IRAQI MILITARY

CAPABILITIES DESCRIBING HIS WESTERN NEIGHBOR AS QTE POOR
FRAGMENTED COUNTRY, LACKING COHESION, WITH BARBARIC REGIME
(WHICH) CAN FROM MILITARY POINT OF VIEW ATTEMPT NOTHING
MORE THAN ACT OF TEMPORARY FOLLY UNQTE.

2. SHAH STATED IRANIAN TERRORISTS, WHO CONTROLLED BY BAGHDAD
AND TRAINED BY PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN, QTE FINISHED UNQTE, AS
VEN BY SOVEREIGN'S RIDES FROM AIRPORT TO PALACE IN OPEN

CAR. MOST SCATHING COMMENTS WERE RESERVUGR ISLAMIC-
MARXISTS WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS QTE RIDICULOUS, LAUGHABLE,
A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS UNQTE. HOWEVER, HIM SID WLSEWHERE
IN INTERVIEW THAT KILLING OF US OFFICER WAS INCIDENT WHICH
QTE MAY REPEAT ITSELF TWO OR THREE TIMES A YEAR UNQTE.
COMMENT: THOUGH LESS ACTIVE THIS YEAR THAN LAST, TERRORIST
ORGANIZATIONS STILL EXIST. END COMMENT)

3. MONARCH DENIED THAT RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS GOING THROUGH
A DIFFICULT PHASE AND CLAIMED THAT COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED DURING
PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW RECOGNIZED
VALIDITY OF IRANIAN POLICIES IN PERSIAN GULF. CONCERNING
IRAN-INDIA RELATIONS SHAH REMARKED THAT EACH NATION UNDER-
STANDS THE OTHER BUT IRAN MUST REMAIN VIGILANT AND PREPARED
FOR SELF-DEFENCE QTE SO AS NOT TO HAVE TO SEND SOS TO
AMERICANS UQNT.

4. IN SERIESBF COMMENTS APPARENTLY AIMED AT AFP'S FRENCH
AUDIENCE, HIM DESCRIBED IRAN AS THE FRANCE OF TOMORROW, A
COUNTRY LOCATED IN THE FAR WEST OF THE ORIENT WITH MENTALITY
AND PHILOSOPHY CLOSE TO THAT OF EUROPEAN STATES,
ESPECIALLY FRANCE. ALONG WITH LAUDATORY REMARKS ABOUT
DEGAULLE, RECNET POMPIDOU VISIT AND FRANCO-IRANIAN
RELATIONS IN GENERAL, SHAH OFFERED CLEAR INVITATIOXUFOR
CLOSER TIES AND INCREASED FRENCH INVESTMENT NOTING THAT
FRENCH MUST DO BETTER IF THEY ARE NOT TO FALL BEHIND OTHERS
IN IRAN.

COMMENT: IRANIANS ARE OFTEN CHARACTERIZED AS THE FRENCH OF
THE MIDDLE EAST WITH SIMILAR IDEAS OF CULTURAL, LINGQHEC
AND CULINARY EXCELLENCE AND SIMILAR PRIDE IN HISTORIC
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CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH EACH HAS MADE TO THE EVOLUTION OF ITS
RESPECTIVE AREA. FOLLOWING FRENCH SNUB OF 2500TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS, WE HAVE NOTED DEFINITE TREND ON PART OF TEHRAN,
PERHAPS RESULTING FROM INFLUENCE OF FRENCH-EDUCATED EMPRESS
FARAH, TO ESTABLISH CLOSER TIES WITH PARIS. IN ADDITION
TO AFP INTERVIEW AND VISIT OF POMPIDOU, EXAMPLES INCLUDE

PLANNED CREATION OF FARSI/FRENCH UNIVERSITY AT HAMADAN

PROMOTION OF FRENCH-TRAINED INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS NEW HEALTH
MINISTER ANUSHIRVAN PUYAN AND OCCASIONAL ARTICLES IN
CONTROLLED PRESS EXPOUNDING JOYS OF FRANCOPHONIE. INVEST-
MENT CONSIDERATIONS ASIDE IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE SOOTHING
TO THE PERSIAN EGO TO BE ACCEPTED AS EQUALS BY LEADERS OF
EUROPEAN CULTURE.
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